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Background

According to the Strategic plan for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, agreed by HOD 54-2018, analyses of sufficiency of measures (SOM) to reach HELCOM goals and objectives should be carried out. The results of the analyses will indicate whether existing policies are sufficient to achieve good environmental status (GES) in the Baltic Sea and will support the selection of new and strengthened HELCOM actions for the updated BSAP.

The analyses will be carried by the *ad hoc* HELCOM platform for analysing sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform), established by HOD 55-2018 and the HELCOM ACTION project which is co-funded by the EU. Topics specifically covered by the SOM Platform are input of hazardous substances, marine litter, underwater sound, non-indigenous species, and the state of ecosystem components.

This workshop is convened to support the SOM analysis on hazardous substances e.g. mercury, TBT, PFOS, and diclofenac. Key issues to be addressed at the Workshop are 1) the effectiveness of measures to reduce the input of these substances to the Baltic Sea, and 2) the response in the state of the environment when the input of these substances is reduced. The workshop will be supported by a facilitator and workshop participants will be expected to provide expert-based evaluations on the key issues. Conclusions and proposals of the Workshop will be submitted to PRESSURE 11-2019 for consideration.

Provisional agenda items

The Workshop is invited to adopt the Agenda for the Workshop.

- 1) Introduction to the approach to analyse sufficiency of measures to support the BSAP update.
- 2) Effectiveness of measures; an estimation of the effectiveness of measures on controlling the input of specific substances to the Baltic Sea.
- 3) State response to pressure reduction; an estimation of the link between pressure reductions (input of specific substances) to the improvement in environmental status of the Baltic.
- 4) Wrap-up and closing of the workshop.